

In the Claims

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a product code having product information contained therein for interfacing a user node to a remote node over a network, comprising the steps of:

5 extracting the product information from the product code at the user node, which product code is disposed on or in close association with an associated product; and

in ~~automatic~~ response to the step of extracting; ~~assembling a message packet associating network routing information with the extracted product code information, thereby enabling the interfacing over the network;~~

10 assembling a message packet containing the product information;
transmitting the message packet to an intermediate node on the network;

receiving from the intermediate node on the network instructional code that instructs the user node to connect to one of the remote nodes on the
15 network that has defined association with the extracted product information defined at the intermediate node; and

connecting the user node to the one of the remote nodes in accordance with the received instructional code such that connection to the remote location is controlled by the intermediate node.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product code comprises machine readable code.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

S/N 09/379,699

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3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of extracting comprises scanning the machine readable code to extract the product code information therefrom.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the machine readable code comprises a bar code.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents a UPC.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents an ISBN number.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents an EAN number.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, and further comprising the step of interfacing with the network utilizing ~~the associated~~ network routing information embedded with the instructional code.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of ~~associating the network routing information with the product information in response to the step of extracting~~ transmitting the message packet comprises the steps of:

~~accessing a remote location on the network from the user's location at which the product information is extracted;~~

~~transmitting the message packet containing the product information to the remote location over~~ intermediate node on the network;

comparing the product information with an associative database having stored therein associations with a plurality of product information and associated routing information and determining if there is a match;

if there is a match, returning instructional code embedded with the routing information to the location at which the product information was extracted for assembly into the message packet.